

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 09417 081937Z

44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-07 AID-20 IO-14 SCI-06

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5815

AMCONSUL ASMARA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, ET

SUBJECT: PROJECT HOPE

FOR WYMAN FROM DR. WALSH

REF: ADDIS 7859

THE FOLLOWING IS A MESSAGE FROM DR. WALSH IN REPLY TO REFTEL.

1. MY STAFF ADVISED ME BY PHONE TO AVOID VISIT. ACTIONS OF
PRESENT MINISTER IMPOSSIBLE TO COMPREHEND EXCEPT FOR PRESSURE
HE IS UNDER.

2. MINISTER JEMAL ADVISED ME THROUGH SCOTT APPROXIMATELY SIX
WEEKS AGO OF NEW CONTRACT BEARING HIS NAME. FORWARDED SAME TO
ME VIA SCOTT. HOPE DID NOT SIGN. MINISTER DID NOT EVEN WISH
ETH AMBASSADOR WASHINGTON NOTIFIED. SAID IT WOULD CAUSE CONFUSION.

3. AFTER MONTHS OF EFFORT HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO GET ESSENTIAL
SUPPLIES INTO ETHIOPIA. ETH AIRLINES WANTED IMPOSSIBLE RATE TO
FLY SUPPLIES FOR USE OF OWN PEOPLE, ALMOST DOUBLE AMERICAN RATE.
IEG ADVISED NO ACTION TAKE. THEN ADVISED BY ETH AIRLINES NO
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PAGE 02 ROME 09417 081937Z

CARGO PLANES AVAILABLE BECAUSE OF CHARTER TO SAUDI ARABIA.

COULD NOT EFFECTIVELY FUNCTION WITHOUT EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES
DESPITE IEG KNOWLEDGE THAT CONTRACTS FOR EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSAND
DOLLARD WORTH OF PERSONNEL HAD BEEN SIGNED AND A MILLION DOLLARS
WORTH OF EQUIPMENT AND DRUGS HAD ACCUMULATED IN HOPE WAREHOUSES.

4. ORIGINAL UNDERSTANDINGS INVOLVED IEG COMMITMENT FOR TRAINEES
IN TEACHING PROGRAMS. BY ONE JUNE ALL PROGRAMS HAD BEEN CANCELLED
BY IEG EXCEPT ONE SMALL ONE. COULD NOT COMMIT THREE MILLION
DOLLARS ANNUAL BUDGET FOR SERVICE PROGRAM. PROVINCIAL HEALTH
OFFICER OF IEG SO ADVISED. NO CORRECTIVE ACTION TAKEN.

5. YOU ARE AWARE OF THREATS BY ELF TO HOPE IF PROGRAM TOO
EFFECTIVE. ALSO OF DICTATION OF ELF OF HOW MANY
PEOPLE SHOULD PARTICIPATE AND WHEN. IEG WAS ADVISED - THE
STATE DEPT. AND IEG CONCURRED IN DELAY - HOPE LEFT HOLDING
CONTRACTS TO BE HONORED. NO FURTHER ACTION TAKEN BY IEG.

6. YOU ARE AWARE OF ELF ACCUSATIONS THAT IEG MAY CAUSE
INCIDENTS TO BE BLAMED UPON ELF. HOPE COULD NOT ACCEPT ELF
HAVING IT BOTH WAYS. TO CONTINUE AT ASMARA WOULD HAVE BEEN
IRRESPONSIBLE. DECISION TO DELAY WAS MINE - BUT STATE CONCURRED
IN ITS WISDOM.

7. OFFER TO MOVE PROGRAM TO ADDIS UNTIL SITUATION IN ETHIOPIA
CLARIFIED WAS MADE SINCERELY. JEMAL AND STAFF INITIALLY CONCURRED.
PROGRESS TO WHICH YOU REFER AND ATTRIBUTE TO MOORE IS ATTRIBUTED
TO THAT DECISION AND COOPERATION AT MEDICAL SCHOOL AND MINISTRY
STAFF LEVEL.

8. JEMAL SUDDENLY REVERSED FIELD AND DEMANDS RETURN TO ASMARA
AS BASIS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION. DECLARED DUTY FREE ENTRY OF
SUPPLIES AND EFFECTS WAS VALID ONLY FOR ASMARA DESPITE FACT THAT
BOTH THE ORIGINAL CONTRACT VOIDED BY JEMAL AND SECOND ONE SUBMITTED
REFER TO ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS IN ADDIS.

9. SEIZURE OF SECOND TRUCK LOAD OF FURNITURE BOUND FOR
ASMARA AND ADVISE THAT IT WOULD BE HELD UNLESS HOPE PAID DUTY ON
IT WAS UNFRIENDLY AND IRRATIONAL ACT. FURNITURE BELONGS TO IEG.
ITS SEIZURE AND ASSESSMENT OF DUTY IS PORTENT OF THINGS TO COME.

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PAGE 03 ROME 09417 081937Z

10. REGRET YOUR IMPLICATION THAT CANCELLATION OF HOPE PLANS WOULD
REFLECT ON OUR GOVERNMENT AND AMERICAN PEOPLE. DECISION OF OUR
GOVERNMENT TO EVACUATE ASMARA WAS AS YOU KNOW UNPOPULAR AND HIS
MAJESTY SO STATED TO AMERICAN AMBASSADOR IN MY PRESENCE. HIS
MAJESTY STATED IT CAME AT A MOST UNFORTUNATE TIME FOR HIS
GOVERNMENT. HOPE ATTEMPTED TO RESPOND TO INITIAL REQUEST BY
DOD TO FILL AMERICAN VOID IN ASMARA. ACTED IN GOOD FAITH AND
HAVE ALREADY INVESTED TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS AND VALUABLE

PERSONNEL IN ORDER TO KEEP PROJECT ALIVE. FEEL ANY EFFORT
TO TRANSFER BLAME TO HOPE FOR ANTI-AMERICAN REACTION UNJUSTIFIED.

11. WOULD PREFER TO SEE YOU SUSTAIN OUR DECISION AND JUDGEMENT
IN VIEW OF CURRENT INTERNAL PROBLEMS WITHIN ETHIOPIA. CANNOT
IMAGINE THAT YOU WOULD ADVISE US TO ATTEMPT TO MAKE COMMITMENT
IN VOLATILE ATMOSPHERE NOW PRESENT. AID OFFICER TOLD US HE
WITHDREW SUPPORT FROM CERTAIN HEALTH ACTIVITIES LAST YEAR BECAUSE
OF ETHIOPIAN ATTITUDES. WHY ARE WE NOT JUSTIFIED TO DO THE SAME.

12. BELIEVE ADVICE TO ME BY JOHN MOORE TO AVOID ENTRANCE TO
ETHIOPIA AT THIS TIME IS SOUND. HOPE CANNTO RETURN TO ASMARA-
MUCH PERSONNEL HAS HAD TO BE REASSIGNED. SETTLEMENTS WITH OTHERS
ON CONTRACT CANCELLATION HAS HAD TO BE MADE BECAUSE NONE COULD
AWAIT THE SOLUTION OF PROGLONED DIFFICULTIES OF IEG.

13. BLAME SHOULD NEVER BE THE BURDEN ANYONE MUST BEAR. IF
YOU INSIST UPON IT, SUGGEST THAT YOU PLACE IT WHERE IT BELONGS.
NO ONE AT OUR GOVERNMENT LEVEL ABLE TO PREDICT ACTIONS OF EITHER
ELF OR IEG AT THIS TIME. I CANNOT ASSUME THAT RESPONSIBILITY
WITH STAFF OR FUNDS. IEG SHOULD WORRY MORE OF IMPRESSIONS IT
IS CREATING TO OUTSIDE WORLD RATHER THAN YOUR HAVING SUCH DEEP
CONCERN AT MY UNAVOIDABLE DECISION. WE DID NOT ABANDON ETHIOPIA.
WE ADVISED IEG WE WOULD HAPPILY WORK IN ADDIS UNTIL INTERNAL
SITUATION WAS RESOLVED. THEY HAVE REJECTED THAT OPTION. HOPE
HAD NO OTHER CHOICE. BEAUDRY

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